## CLAIMS

1. A transaction method in which a first party transfers a first part of a payment token to a second party to obtain the subject of a transaction, the first party transfers a second part of the payment token to a third party, the first party issues a notification that the subject has been received, and the third party, subsequent to receiving notification that the first party has received the subject, releases the second part of the payment token to the second party to allow payment to the second party.

2. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the first party transfers the first part of the payment token to the second party via the third party.

3. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the payment token does not identify the first party.

4. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

5. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the payment token identifies the second party.

6. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the payment token identifies the second party's account.

7. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the first party's bank certifies at least a part of the payment token.

8. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the first party obtains at least a part of the payment token from its bank.

9. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the first party generates a part of the payment token from a part of the payment token obtained from its bank.

10. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein the second party authenticates the payment token.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first party or its bank makes the payment token specific to the transaction.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first party optionally decides to cancel the transaction by requesting the third party to do so.

13. A transaction method according to claim 1, wherein a logistics agent transfers the subject of the transaction to the first party.

14. A transaction method wherein a first party transfers a payment token to a second party in exchange for the subject of a transaction, the method comprising the step of the first party transferring at least one part of a payment token to the second party via a third party, and wherein the payment token does not identify the first party.

15. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the first party passes more than one part of the payment token to the second party via the third party.

16. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

17. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the payment token identifies the second party.

18. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the payment token identifies the second party's account.

19. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the first party's bank certifies at least a part of the payment token.

20. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the first party obtains at least a part of the payment token from its bank.

21. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the first party generates a part of the payment token from a part of the payment token obtained from its bank.

22. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein the second party authenticates the payment token.

23. A method according to claim 14, wherein the first party or its bank makes the payment token specific to the transaction.

24. A method according to claim 14, wherein the first party optionally decides to cancel the transaction by requesting the third party to do so.

25. A transaction method according to claim 14, wherein a logistics agent transfers the subject of the transaction to the first party.

26. A transaction method in which a first party transfers a first part of a payment token to a second party to obtain the subject of a transaction, the first party transfers a second part of the payment token to a third party, the first party issues a notification that the subject has been received, and the third party, subsequent to receiving notification that the first party has received the subject, releases the second part of the payment token to the second party to allow payment to the second party, wherein the payment token does not identify the first party.

27. A transaction method in which a first party transfers a first part of a payment token to a second party to obtain the subject of a transaction, the first party transfers a second part of the payment token to a third party, the first party issues a notification that the subject has been received, and the third party, subsequent to receiving notification that the first party has received the subject, releases the second part of the payment token to the second party to allow payment to the second party, wherein the payment token does not contain

information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

28. A transaction method wherein a first party transfers a payment token to a second party in exchange for the subject of a transaction, the method comprising the step of the first party transferring at least one part of a payment token to the second party via a third party, and wherein the payment token does not identify the first party, wherein the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

29. A transaction method in which a first party transfers a first part of a payment token to a second party to obtain the subject of a transaction, the first party transfers a second part of the payment token to a third party, the first party issues a notification that the subject has been received, and the third party, subsequent to receiving notification that the first party has received the subject, releases the second part of the payment token to the second party to allow payment to the second party, wherein a logistics agent transfers the subject of the transaction to the first party.

30. A transaction method wherein a first party transfers a payment token to a second party in exchange for the subject of a transaction, the method comprising the step of the first party transferring at least one part of a payment token to the second party via a third party, and wherein the payment token does not identify the first party and a logistics agent transfers the subject of the transaction to the first party.

31. A transaction method in which a first party transfers a first part of a payment token to a second party to obtain the subject of a transaction, the first party transfers a second part of the payment token to a third party, the first party issues a notification that the subject has been received, and the third party, subsequent to receiving notification that the first party has received the subject, releases the second part of the payment token to the second party to allow payment to the second party, wherein the payment token does not identify the first party and a logistics agent transfers the subject of the transaction to the first party.

32. A system for performing transactions, comprising third party data processing apparatus connected to first and second parties engaging in a transaction for communication therewith, wherein the third party data processing apparatus comprises a transferor arranged to receive a second part of a payment token from a first party to a transaction and a verifier arranged to verify that the subject of the transaction has been received by the first party to enable the transferor to release said second part to a second party for use with a first part of said token to permit payment to the second party.

33. A system according to claim 32, wherein the transferor is arranged to receive the first part of the token from the first party and transfer the first part of the token to the second party.

34. A system according to claim 32, wherein the payment token does not identify the first party.

35. A system according to claim 32, wherein the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

36. A system according to claim 32, wherein the payment token identifies the second party.

37. A system according to claim 32, wherein the payment token identifies the second party's account.

38. A system according to claim 32, wherein at least a part of the payment token is certified by the first party's bank.

39. A system according to claim 32, wherein at least a part of the payment token is obtained from the first party's bank.

40. A system according to claim 32, wherein at least a part of the payment token is generated from a part of the payment token obtained from the first party's bank.

41. A system according to claim 32, wherein the third party includes a notifier arranged to cause cancellation of the transaction at the first party's behest.

42. A system according to claim 32, further comprising a logistics agent for transferring the subject of the transaction to the first party.

43. A system for performing transactions, comprising first, second and third parties, said first and second parties being interconnected for communication via the third party to enable the first party to give a payment token to the second party in return for the subject of a transaction, wherein the first party is arranged to transfer at least one part of the payment token to the second party via the third party, and the payment token does not identify the first party.

44. A system according to claim 43, wherein the first party is arranged to pass more than one part of the payment token to the second party via the third party.

45. A system according to claim 43, wherein the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

46. A system according to claim 43, wherein the payment token identifies the second party.

47. A system according to claim 43, wherein the payment token identifies the second party's account.

48. A system according to claim 43, wherein at least a part of the payment token is certified by the first party's bank.

49. A system according to claim 43, wherein at least a part of the payment token is obtained from the first party's bank.

50. A system according to claim 43, wherein at least a part of the payment token is generated from a part of the payment token obtained from the first party's bank.

51. A system according to claim 43, wherein the third party includes a notifier arranged to cause cancellation of the transaction at the first party's behest.

52. A system according to claim 43, further comprising a logistics agent for transferring the subject of the transaction to the first party.

53. A system for performing transactions, comprising third party data processing apparatus connected to first and second parties engaging in a transaction for communication therewith, wherein the third party data processing apparatus comprises a transferor arranged to receive a second part of a payment token from a first party to a transaction and a verifier arranged to verify that the subject of the transaction has been received by the first party to enable the transferor to release said second part to a second party for use with a first part of said token to permit payment to the second party, wherein the payment token does not identify the first party.

54. A system for performing transactions, comprising third party data processing apparatus connected to first and second parties engaging in a transaction for communication therewith, wherein the third party data processing apparatus comprises a transferor arranged to receive a second part of a payment token from a first party to a transaction and a verifier arranged to verify that the subject of the transaction has been received by the first party to enable the transferor to release said second part to a second party for use with a first part of said token to permit payment to the second party, wherein the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

55. A system for performing transactions, comprising first, second and third parties, said first and second parties being interconnected for communication via the third party to enable the first party to give a payment token to the second party in return for the subject of a transaction, wherein the first party is arranged to transfer at least one part of the payment token to the second party via the third party, the payment token does not identify the first party, and the payment token does not contain information identifying or facilitating the identification of the first party's account.

56. A system for performing transactions, comprising third party data processing apparatus connected to first and second parties engaging in a transaction for communication therewith, wherein the third party data processing apparatus comprises a transferor arranged to receive a second part of a payment token from a first party to a transaction and a verifier arranged to verify that the subject of the transaction has been received by the first party to enable the transferor to release said second part to a second party for use with a first part of said token to permit payment to the second party, wherein the system further comprises a logistics agent for transferring the subject of the transaction to the first party.

57. A system for performing transactions, comprising first, second and third parties, said first and second parties being interconnected for communication via the third party to enable the first party to give a payment token to the second party in return for the subject of a transaction, wherein the first party is arranged to transfer at least one part of the payment token to the second party via the third party, the payment token does not identify the first party, and the system further comprises a logistics agent for transferring the subject of the transaction to the first party.

58. A system for performing transactions, comprising third party data processing apparatus connected to first and second parties engaging in a transaction for communication therewith, wherein the third party data processing apparatus comprises a transferor arranged to receive a second part of a payment token from a first party to a transaction and a verifier arranged to verify that the subject of the transaction has been received by the first party to enable the transferor to release said second part to a second party for use with a first part of said token to permit payment to the second party, wherein the payment token does not identify the first party and the system further comprises a logistics agent for transferring the subject of the transaction to the first party.